

OR of *bite* used for *cheat*.

---More a dupe than wit,  
Sappho can tell you, how this man was *bit*.

POPE.

AND lastly, may be produced the peculiar sense, in which a word is found in any great author. As *faculties* in Shakespeare signifies the powers of authority.

---This Duncan  
Has born his *faculties* so meek, has been  
So clear in his great office, that &c.

THE signification of adjectives, may be often ascertained by uniting them to substantives, as *simple swain*, *simple sheep*; sometimes the sense of a substantive may be elucidated by the epithets annexed to it in good authors, as the *boundless ocean*, the *open lawns*, and where such advantage can be gained by a short quotation it is not to be omitted.

THE difference of signification in words generally accounted synonymous, ought to be carefully observed; as in *pride*, *haughtiness*, *arrogance*; and the strict and critical meaning ought to be distinguished from that which is loose and popular; as in the word *perfection*, which though in its philosophical and exact sense, it can be

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of little use among human beings, is often so degraded from its original signification, that the academicians have inserted in their work *the perfection of language*, and with a little more licentiousness have prevailed on themselves to have added *the perfection of a dictionary*.

THERE are many other characters of words which it will be of use to mention. Some have an active and passive signification, as *fearful*, which gives or which feels terror, a *fearful prince* a *fearful hare*. Some have a personal, some a meaning, as in opposition to *old* we use the adjective of animated beings, and *new* of other things. Some are restrained to the sense of praise, and some to that of disapprobation, so commonly, though always, we *exhort* to good actions, we *instigate* to evil; we *animate*, *incite* and *encourage* indifferently to good or bad. So we usually *ascribe* good, but *impute* evil; yet neither the use of these words, nor perhaps of any other in our licentious language, is so established as to be often reversed by the correctest writers. Therefore, since the rules of style, like those of grammar, arise from precedents often repeated, collect the examples on both sides, and endeavour to discover and promulgate the decrees of custom, who has so long possessed, whether by right or by usurpation, the sovereignty of words.

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